

CHAL-0905-60  
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17 March 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT : Proposed Operation [REDACTED]

1. The attached folder outlines the manner in which photographic coverage of [REDACTED] could be accomplished. If approved, the best period for operations would be to begin on 28 March. The next good weather period will occur in late October.

2. [REDACTED] announced the CIA requirement at the 18 February ARC meeting. You may wish to read paragraph 4 of the ARC minutes in this regard (attached). For our purposes, it was noted that [REDACTED] ranked below Communist China and the USSR in priority. It was further noted that the ARC was not asked for its judgment as to whether the proposed intelligence to be collected warranted the risk.

3. Other reservations to be considered are concerned with current high-level approval and the possible jeopardizing of this approval by an incident or accident which could occur on [REDACTED] operation. Since the purpose is to materially assist [REDACTED] missions would be tactical in that sense. Tactical missions flown in the Mideast represent a precedent, but these, of course, are at the request of the ARC.

4. We would use two slippered aircraft and probably six to seven missions to get the complete CIA required coverage. Lowest fuel reserve over the air base at altitude is computed to be 130 gallons, which represents a safe margin.

5. The policy decision is a difficult one at this time. We have the capability, and if we are to do it, this is the best operational time. Please advise as to your decision.

SIGNED

WILLIAM BURKE  
Colonel, USAF  
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

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